

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 02794 021648Z

47

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 /031 W

----- 052217

O 021616Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 989

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 2794

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINR, ASEC, MX

SUBJECT: SITREP NO 52: MEXICAN PRESS SUMMARY

1. NEWS COVERAGE OF PATTERSON'S CASE INCREASED TODAY, MOSTLY IN THE POLICE SECTIONS. THERE WERE STORIES IN LA PRENSA, EXCELSIOR, EL UNIVERSAL, EL HERALDO AND EL SOL. GENERALLY HEADLINES SAID THERE WAS NOTHING NEW IN THE CASE EXCEPT THAT NOBODY WANTS TO TALK ABOUT IT.

2. SOME BITS OF INFORMATION THAT HAD NOT BEEN INCLUDED IN PREVIOUS STORIES ARE PUBLISHED TODAY, BUT OTHER DISPATCHES SAY THEY ARE JUST SPECULATIONS.

3. LA PRENSA, ON PAGE 19, SAYS "IT WAS CONFIRMED TODAY THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS INTERVENING IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE PATTERSON CASE." ROBERT MILTON, OFFICIAL CONSULATE SPOKESMAN CONCEDED THAT THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT COMMUNICATING PATTERSON'S KIDNAPPING IS IN WASHINGTON.

4. STORIES SAY THAT ANN PATTERSON LEFT THE CONSULATE'S RESIDENCE BUT WAS FOLLOWED BY REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS AND THEN WENT INTO THE CONSULATE SAYING SHE WAS GOING TO PICK UP HER HUSBAND'S PAYCHECK. "BUT IT WAS LEARNED THAT ANN WAS GOING TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH THE KIDNAPPERS AND THAT SHE HAD TO MAKE A DETOUR BECAUSE SHE WAS BEING FOLLOWED."

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 02794 021648Z

5. THE NEWSPAPERS EL IMPARCIAL, OF HERMOSILLO, LA

PRENSA AND OTHER PAPERS RAN STORY SAYING THAT THE RANSOM DOCUMENT WAS SIGNED BY THE FUERZAS ARMADAS POPULARES DE LIBERACION DE MEXICO (OTHER PAPERS GIVE THE ENGLISH TITLE "THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY OF MEXICO") AND INDICATED THE KIDNAPPING IS POLITICAL AND THAT THE CONSULATE HAS RULED OUT A SELF-KIDNAPPING.

6. STORIES ALSO NOTE THAT HANDOUTS WITH PATTERSON'S PICTURE SAYING "HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN?" HAVE BEEN GIVEN MASSIVE DISTRIBUTION IN HERMOSILLO AND SURROUNDING AREAS.

7. ACCORDING TO THESE VERSIONS, PATTERSON'S RETURN WAS EXPECTED LAST FRIDAY. NEWSMEN NOTED THAT 'AN OPEN LINE WITH THE US EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY WAS CANCELLED' AND THAT THE DUTY ROSTER DID NOT MAKE ANY PROVISIONS FOR CONSULAR OFFICERS TO BE ON GUARD BEYOND FRIDAY.

8. ALL STORIES ALSO TIE THEIR DISPATCHES TO A BOMBING ATTEMPT IN CIUDAD OBREGON. (TWO BOMBS WERE THROWN THROUGH THE WINDOW OF THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR OR AGENTE DEL MINISTERIO PUBLICO OFFICE).

9. EL HERALDO HAS MORE OR LESS THE SAME INFORMATION ON PAGE 10 WITH AN ADDITIONAL PARAGRAPH SAYING THAT MEXICAN POLICE HAVE RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT PATTERSON WAS KIDNAPPED BY LEFTIST TERRORIST AND ARE WORKING ON OTHER ANGLES, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF A SELF-KIDNAPPING.

10. EL UNIVERSAL, PAGE 13 (SECOND SECTION) SAID THERE IS NOTHING SURE AND ONLY SPECULATION.

11. EL SOL DE MEXICO HEADLINED (PAGE 8): "THE US CONSULATE IN HERMOSILLO DISTRIBUTES HANDOUTS TO HELP LOCATE PATTERSON. SILENCE AND MORE SNUBS TO NEWSMEN." THE REPORT SAYS POLICE MOVED OUT QUICKLY YESTERDAY WHEN A BODY WAS LOCATED ON THE GUADALAJARA-NOGALES RAILROAD TRACKS WHICH WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN PATTERSON'S. BUT IT WAS A FALSE ALARM. EL SOL NOTES THAT SUE PATTERSON ARRIVED IN HERMOSILLO YESTERDAY AND WAS TAKEN QUICKLY TO CONSUL YELTON'S RESIDENCE AND THAT "DURING THE NIGHT THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 02794 021648Z

QUIET SECTION WHERE THE CONSUL LIVES WAS BROKEN BY THE LOUD LAUGHTER INSIDE THE HOUSE".

12. EL SOL, AND OTHER PAPERS, ALSO COINCIDE ON THE RANSOM CONDITIONS: 250,000 DOLLARS TO BE DELIVERED AT THE HOTEL SAN MARCOS AT NOGALES AND ANOTHER 250,000 TO BE DELIVERED THIS LAST SUNDAY AT 8 PM AT THE HOLIDAY INN AT THE AIRPORT IN MEXICO CITY.

13. FRONT PAGE PHOTO OF MRS. PATTERSON AND CONSUL
GENERAL YELTON APPEARED IN LA PRENSA. EXCELSIO CARRIED
ONE PHOTO ON INSIDE PAGE. JOVA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, PRESS COMMENTS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MEXICO02794
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740073-0277
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740474/aaaacqfa.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITREP NO 52: MEXICAN PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PINR, ASEC, MX, US, (PATTERSON, JOHN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005